

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66603

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AFR/CWR-MR. ROSENTHAL(SUB)

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R 091645Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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FOLL REPEAT STATE 266627 ACTION OUAGADOUGOU INFO PARIS 04 DEC
74 QUOTE

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AIDAC, OUAGADOUGOU FOR AMBASSADOR, PARIS FOR MOSSLER OECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT:PROPOSED SAHEL CONSULTATIVE GROUP

1. THE FOLLOWING LETTER WAS DELIVERED TO THE EMBASSY OF
UPPER VOLTA FOR TRANSMISSION TO MINISTER DAKOURE ON
NOVEMBER 22, WRITTEN BY DAC CHAIRMAN:

QUOTE: AS YOU WILL RECALL, AFTER MY ROLE AS PRESIDENTIAL
COORDINATOR FOR AMERICAN DROUGHT RELIEF TO THE SAHEL
COUNTRIES, I WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE DEVELOPMENT ASSIST-
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ANCE COMMITTEE (DAC) BY THE COUNTRIES OF THE ORGANIZATION

FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD) WHO TOGETHER HAVE PROVIDED SOME 90 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IN THIS POSITION, MY RESPONSIBILITY IS TO STIMULATE COOPERATIVE ASSISTANCE EFFORTS AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO EVALUATE THE VOLUME AND ADEQUACY OF ASSISTANCE AND ITS GEOGRAPHIC ALLOCATION.

HENCE, AFTER WE MET IN RABAT, AT THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK MEETING, AND YOU SAID YOU WISHED I COULD CONTINUE TO WORK ON SAHEL PROBLEMS, I BEGAN TO GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO HOW I COULD BE HELPFUL TO YOU IN SECURING GREATER ASSISTANCE FOR THE LONGER TERM DEVELOPMENT OF THE SAHEL COUNTRIES.

NOW THAT MORE NORMAL RAINS HAVE COME, IT IS TIME TO CAPTURE WORLD INTEREST TO ASSURE THAT YOUR PROGRAMS RECEIVE THE SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS WHICH WILL BE NEEDED OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO EIGHT YEARS. MY CONCERN IS NOT WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IN DEVELOPMENT -- THE PLANNING OF PROGRAMS RESPONSIVE TO YOUR PRIORITIES IS THE BUSINESS OF THE SAHEL PEOPLE AND THEIR GOVERNMENT. RATHER, MY CONCERN IS HOW TO ENCOURAGE ALL POTENTIAL DONORS TO RAISE THE SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR THESE PROGRAMS. IT IS HERE THAT MY POSITION OF DAC CHAIRMAN MAY PROVE HELPFUL.

THE U.S. AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS CAME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION IN THEIR CONCERN TO ASSURE A GREATER AND SUSTAINED EFFORT OF ASSISTANCE FOR SAHEL DEVELOPMENT, THEY HAVE ASKED ME TO HOLD INFORMAL TALKS WITH DONOR COUNTRIES AND TO EXPLORE HOW SUCH AN ENLARGED ASSISTANCE EFFORT CAN BE SUPPORTED OVER THE NEXT DECADE. MOST OF THE DONOR COUNTRIES ARE REPRESENTED HERE IN PARIS. I AM PLEASED TO TAKE UP THIS TASK, BUT ONLY WITH YOUR PRIOR KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING. AFTER MY INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF HOW BEST TO MOBILIZE A MAJOR DONOR EFFORT, I PROPOSE TO MEET WITH YOU AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SAHEL COUNTRIES IN OUAGADOUGOU AND SEE HOW BEST TO PROCEED IN OUR COMMON OBJECTIVE. I THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO MEET AFTER I HAVE EXPLORED DONORS' VIEWS BUT IF YOU PREFER, WE COULD MEET BEFORE I HOLD INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH DONOR COUNTRIES. I DEFER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO YOUR JUDGMENT OF HOW I CAN BEST HELP YOU AS MINISTERIAL SPOKESMAN FOR THE CILSS.

PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR REPLY THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS SINCE NORMAL COMMUNICATIONS IN FRANCE CONTINUE TO BE DISRUPTED BY STRIKES.

YOU MAY FIND OF INTEREST THE ENCLOSED CHAPTER ON THE

DROUGHT DISASTER IN THE SAHEL WHICH IS FROM MY FIRST REPORT ON THE CURRENT SITUATION AND PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT. THE BOOK IS NOW AT THE PUBLISHERS AND I WILL SEND YOU A PERSONAL COPY WHEN IT COMES OUT. IN IT I HAVE DEALT WITH THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO MAJOR DISASTERS AND TO PROVIDE MORE EFFECTIVE FOLLOW-UP ASSISTANCE FOR LONGER-TERM REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

REST ASSURED THAT MY INTEREST AND SUPPORT FOR YOUR WORK AND THAT OF THE CILSS REMAIN UNDIMINISHED. SIGNED BY MAURICE WILLIAMS. END OF QUOTE.

2. THE CONTENTS OF THIS LETTER ARE FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY AT THIS POINT IN TIME. IT MAY BE DESIRABLE, HOWEVER, IN THE NEAR FUTURE FOR YOU TO TAKE SOME DISCREET SOUNDINGS

CONCERNING DAKOURE RESPONSE TO THE LETTER. THE APPROPRIATE OCCASION MAY WELL BE DONALD BROWN'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO OUAGA FOLLOWING THE NIAMEY WORKSH8P. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, APPRECIATE LEARNING ANY INFORMATION WHICH MAY BECOME AVAILABLE TO YOU CONCERNING DAKOURE'S RESPONSE TO THE DAC CHAIRMAN LETTER, IF THAT SHOULD OCCUR WITUOUT HAVING TO INITIATE ACTIVE INQUIRIES.

DOWNGRADE 12/04/75. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, DROUGHTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE266627
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/W:JKBISHOP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740357-0379
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741250/aaaabqjq.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROPOSED SAHEL CONSULTATIVE GROUP
TAGS: EAID, UV, US, XA
To: NIAMEY MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005